HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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SMITH, TED & JEANNE

Interviewed by

Patricia Young

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INTERVIEWEES: TED & JEANNE SMITH

INTERVIEWER: Patricia Young

SUBJECT:

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TRANSCRIBER: Linda A. Jantzen

PY: Interview with Ted and Jeanne Smith for the Historical Society of Palm Desert Oral History Project on June 27, 1980 at ten o'clock in the morning at their home in Carlsbad, California.

JS: In 1949 and built a winter home in Rancho Mirage, and we were living in the Huntington Park area. And Ted had his own business as a consultant engineer in Los Angeles. And so we used to come down there, of course, and visit, have them in our home, and we used to stop at Beckley's Date Grove. And he now has, it's a mobile home park now, but this time it was nothing but a date grove. And out in front he had a little date shop and we used to stop there and get date shakes and so forth. And he was very interested in our coming down, and very friendly person. And he asked Ted why he didn't get a real estate license and come down to the desert.

And so we kept thinking about it, so I have Ted's first real estate broker's license here, which is dated July 16, 1953. So he went ahead and done that and we finally moved down for good, left the Los Angeles area and moved down for good.

PY: Where was Beckley?

JS: It is right on the edge going toward Palm Springs from Cathedral City, it is right on the edge there, right in between the two. It's almost across from, oh, I can't remember that . . .

PY: Is it back where the El Dorado Mobile Home Park is now?

JS: No, no. That's, no, it's beyond that. It's more up toward . . .

TS: It's nearer Palm Springs.

PY: Oh,

JS: It's, well, of course, the city limits of Palm Springs moved down, I think, and took it in, but it was in Cathedral City anyway. I don't know where Mr. Beckley is now, but they were great people. And he started Ted into the real estate business, you might say. Then we moved down to Rancho Mirage in 1951, which is almost thirty years ago. And then he was in, they went into the real estate business and this is where his office

was in Rancho Mirage. His first office.

PY: Where was it?

JS: It was where, it's where that Eden place. Is that still running?

PY: Yes, that's okay.

JS: While I'm trying to think, I thought maybe you want to stop it for a minute.

PY: No.

TS: In the oyster house.

JS: Well, it's out there, yes. It was the Olympia Oyster House building and he was in one end of it. But I'm trying to remember what's there now. It's that eating place that closes up in the summer. And it's mountain, what's the name of that. Turn that off And then HE WENT to the FOSEST Inn

And that was his first office there. And then one of the first things that happened was that different ones were interested in forming what they called Desert County. And they were going to break off a part of the desert and form a new county because our part of the desert wasn't getting any county services or, you know, Riverside wasn't paying any attention and anytime we wanted to do anything, we had to get in the car and go all the

way to Riverside and that happened clear down to Blythe, to see the Blythe people. They were worse off. And . . .

TS: No courts or anything.

JS: There was nothing there, so people came to Ted and they felt that he could get a group together and sort of, hed send an organizer, you know, and they wanted him to do this. So this is the first and then the county proposal in 1954, lost an active campaign and Lee Orville, the secretary-treasurer, sent his president + nine other vice-president. And this is a very active group thing and Riverside started to wake up. And this desert county, we were serious. The first people thought they were just, you know, trying to make a lot of noise. But they were serious. They were really going to go to the bat and try to break off a part of the county.

TS: And going to have the county move from the courts and superior court from Indio.

JS: They build that big County building there in Indio, huge big building, and they have a superior court judge there now, and all kinds of county services there they've never had before. And it was the result of this. So this was then resolved. They felt like they got what they wanted.

PY: Were you in Palm Desert by that time?

TS: No.

JS: No.

TS: No, we were in Rancho Mirage.

JS: No, we were still in Rancho Mirage. And then some people came to the desert from Washington and they became interested in a lot of things there. And through Ted's interest, they built this large building where the market is, the big market there.

TS: Rancho Mirage Market.

JS: Now at that time it was a supermarket. I have a picture of it here somewhere. And, no, that was the first Palm Desert . . . Anyway, this is an architectural sketch of it. And that was, of course, This is a picture of the office there. It's him standing out there with a new sign. But this is where

PY: So this is where the Rancho Market is now. Okay, the Rancho Mirage Market.

JS: What is that market there now?

TS: Kiva.

JS: No, that was the first market.

PY: Isn't it the Rancho Market? Isn't it called Rancho Market?

JS: No, that's across the street.

PY: Oh, Jergenson's is the

JS: Yes. Then they built this new building and then he moved his office there. They had a lovely big office there and probably, let's see, it was the Kiva Market originally. Now it's Jergenson. It was in between there. I think there's a decorator shop there or something. That was his office there for awhile. And when we were there Hal + Ella Lee Kapp came in. They had just arrived in the desert, I think, and they were getting ready to build their first home. And they had heard that I did architectural drawings, plans. I don't know who told them, and they wanted me to draw, they knew what they wanted, but they wanted it down, you know, so that the builders could build from it. And I think we sent them to an architect and they finally got it built. But that was the beginning of the friendship with them. But they weren't in business there yet. Then through their friendship they went together and this was their first office. And this building, I'm not sure whether that was the original old post office or not. It was an old building in Palm Desert.

TS: It was the first post office.

JS: I think it could have been one of the old post office buildings.

PY: Would that have made it over by May Hansen's building on Larkspur?

JS: This was out on Highway 111.

PY: Oh.

JS: But what's there now, I've kind of lost track of what would be there, but you can see on each side there was just nothing but . . .

TS: on Highway 111

JS: Oh no. No, I'm looking at this other building. No, not that one. You later moved there. This was an old building. Don't you remember? That real old building that they fixed it up and modernized it and that was when they went together and they incorporated them as desert property consultants and that was the beginning of that. And see where it is again. There's the address, 73347 Highway 111. Now where that is now in relation to other buildings, I don't know. But with that address, maybe you can identify it. Then there was also an ongoing committee in the desert which was called the Coachella Valley Advisory Planning Committee. And that was composed of leaders in businesses in the

desert, throughout the desert, up in the high desert and everywhere. And they, of course, previous to this, this is January 1955, this picture, previous to that Ted had been asked to join and then when this picture was taken, it says Ted Smith, Vice President from Rancho Mirage, so I guess, we're still living there, we didn't move, although we had this office that I showed you a picture of, we hadn't moved to Palm Desert yet. We were in Rancho Mirage quite awhile. And this is 1955. And then he later became president of this. It was, what do you call it, it was a committee that really got things done around there. If something needed doing, why this committee made a lot of noise about it.

PY: What it for like determining . . .

TS: putting new business in

PY: Oh.

JS: Oh, it was just for everything. Well, I don't know what all you did, but you just had meetings all the time. And now this is a picture, and I don't have the date of it.

PY: Coachella Valley Planners. Now that's not the same as the other one, is it?

JS: Coachella Valley/Advisory Planning Committee.

PY: Oh.

JS: Yes, it's the same thing. Now he became president then, see. This was 1956.

PY: So with that IKE you have city planning commissions now, was it the same idea?

TS: No, it was to get an interest in it from Riverside and to get the county interested in coming down there.

JS: And doing a lot of things, let's see if it says anything about it.

TS: No community interested at that time.

JS: Hal was in there then, too. Ted got him into it because they had become friends and so Hal Capp was secretary at this time. And I don't believe there's anybody else in here who's still in the desert. Paul Clark was vice president; he's gone. CLARK, POWELL treasurer. I don't know, has he gone? And here was somebody from Desert Hot Springs and somebody from Coachella and somebody from Mecca. They were from all over. The work of this organization is not a one-man job, Smith declared after expressing his appreciation of the confidence showed in him. He also pointed out that it will only be as effective as the member organization make it and that each and every group should have their

chief interests, projects and problems placed on the agenda. So it's getting problems ironed out.

PY: A little bit perhaps of what CVAG, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, does now.

TS: They were an aftermath.

JS: And let's see, what else might be of interest? Well, you see, they went to the bat when things happened. Now you see they are seeking to pool the senatory district. They didn't even have that in those early days. See, they did all these things that, see, there was no, nothing was incorporated. The county wasn't paying much attention to them. And so they had to really start from the ground up. And now it says here that they are forming a senatory district and providing a dump service for rubbish and garbage. All those things that were't done at all. They would just go out and dump their garbage anyplace they felt like it, on somebody's vacant lot. And so there were lots of things that they did. Now this is the first picture that I have in here of the Shadow Mountain Club officers. And at that time, this is April 28, 1955, Ted Smith was voted vice president. He later became president three different times, but at that time, he was vice president. And Andrew Mosley was

president. Alan Willard,I don't know whether he's still there or not, the Willard Florist people, they . . .

TS: They may . . .

JS: Andy Willard is his son that has the little florist shop in Palm Desert now. And Alan Willard had a florist shop in Indio at that time. Now he's the second vice president. And then . . . It says 1954, a year of many exciting events in the city. Now this was, this is the Desert Sun, taken from the Desert Sun. And there was one of the things that they cited was the work being done by the Desert County. And they said Ted Smith, president. That was one of the ten important things that had happened in the desert.

PY: What was the crew that Hal used to talk about? It seems to me it dealt with water and was the highlands area, something about bond issue in voted in because you owned all the property and there were like.

JS: That was quite a bit later. That was when they voted in the sewerage, sewer system. And that was quite a bit later. And it was put on the ballot in the summertime and I think only about two or three people voted. And so we got the sewerage up in the Palm Desert Highlands. That was much later than this. It must have been twenty years later because this is only 1955. I may be going

into more detail than you want to to into.

PY: No, no. I didn't know when that happened. I just remembered it and saw that.

JS: Long, long time. And this is all about Desert County. Some of these things are personal, you know, and I'll go over that. Oh, this is the Palm Desert Follies of 1955. Now this is when the Palm Desert Little Theatre, and they organized what they called, it says a first edition, so you see, they've had them since at least 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955. This is the fourth edition, and it gives all these people here. And all our names are listed, if you'd care for them.

PY: What was the follies like?

JS: Oh, they all did little skits and things and songs. Just like I told you.

TS: There was no entertainment there at all, no nothing.

JS: There was nothing for people to do, and it was really, we had a full house every night. (laughter) Well, you can imagine. Admission was only a dollar and children fifty cents, and it was just loaded. Now I don't know where, it was over in the north side of the highway, and it was a building.

TS: On Avenue 44.

JS: It was way over there, and as I was trying to think of the building, it had old theatre seats. somebody had donated and somebody had donated all the work for the footlights and stage and the whole works. It was just a real community project and everybody had an interest in it. And so it was all these people in here.

PY: Grace Hume, I think, told me it was like an old barn.

TS: It was an old barn.

JS: I guess it was. Well, you probably know all about this then.

PY: Oh, no. I don't know all that much. Now would you sing, is that it?

JS: Yes.

PY: Both of you sang.

JS: He always sang. No, he always sang. He had a wonderful voice in those days. And . . .

PY: What was your theme song?

JS: "Home On the Range." And like in 1955 when they'd grown up a little bit, they really had stage settings and when he came out to sing, he always had a cowboy hat and cowboy shirt and boots and things. And somebody had fixed up a little fire.

TS: Campfire.

JS: Like a little campfire with coals of some kind and a red light on it, so it, and it kind of flickered, you know. The lights weren't very good, I guess. And it really looked like a campfire. And they'd have others sitting around, and then he would come on and sing.

PY: And what did Ella Lou and Al Capp do?

JS: He played and sang, and they sang little songs that they liked to sing together. And usually they were current things that they would sing, the current music that had come out in shows and currently, different ones that they liked.

PY: And Clay Stearns would participate in the follies, too?

JS: What?

PY: Would Clay Stearns participate in the follies?

JS: Yes, he did. I was going to say very seldom.

TS: Soft shoe.

JS: He did that soft shoe dance and he'd sprinkle this sand down, and he was really pretty good at it. I guess he was really an oldtime showman was the reason he was so interested in organizing this thing. And I was looking to see if Mary was here. I think she came later.

PY: Mary?

JS: He married a lady by the name of Mary and she had a real

estate license in Ted's office. And she was really a lovely lady, but she came later than this. And they became acquainted and got married. Members of the Board of Directors of the Cathedral City Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously last night to support Ted Smith of Ranch Mirage for the post of supervisor of the fourth district.

PY: I didn't know you were a supervisor.

JS: He wasn't. They wanted him to run and they supported him and wanted him to run. They had a potluck dinner and business meeting at the town hall. And Leonard Ruby sent the Governor Knight and the California Republican Assembly Committee endorsing the appointment of Smith, but he didn't run. Now this is the program, Rotary program. Well, that was 1955. There's nothing there that has to do with business. Oh, here's another one. Palm Springs City Council last night joined other Cathedral City, Palm Springs City Council last night joined other Coachella Valley civic groups in backing Ted Smith of Rancho Mirage for the position of supervisor of the fourth district. So he was, they wanted him to run, but he didn't do it. And there are different ones about it. And this I put in there. This is the/Desert Palm

Rotary Club song, which probably doesn't have anything to do with its business, but it was, we were on a little trip with the Capps, riding out in the country, and we were singing and everything. And somebody said, you know, Rotary Clubs do have a song. And so one thing led to another and Ted would say something and Al would say something and they finally put together this little song. And they put it together to the tune of "Maryland, my Maryland," and it's still going as far as I know. Every time that they meet, when do they sing it?

TS: At the end of the meeting or during the meeting.

JS: Sometimes during the meeting. I thought it was when they introduced new members or something. Anyway, it says, "Oh, welcome, friends, you're welcome here, please come again from far and near, good fellowship is sure to be wherever there is reverie, when once again you come this way, we hope that you will care to stay, Palm Desert's Rotaries, we're glad you came and hope that you will feel the same."

TS: We used to have five hundred visitors.

JS: Words by Ted Smith and Hal Capp. (laughter) Isn't that cute? Now this is some more about the, they wanted him to run for supervisor. And there's a letter from the

governor.

PY: So what happened? You did not want to run or you . . .

JS: There were a lot of others came out for, and he was busy with his own things in the desert. And it would mean, he found out from, you know, those that had served in that capacity . . .

TS: You had three days into Riverside every week.

JS: It would be nothing but back and forth into Riverside. And he was really doing a lot of good where he was, getting things organized in the desert and the desert needed someone to head up these different things. He would seem to be head of almost everything going in those early days. No matter what group got together, the first thing you know, they'd put Ted Smith head of it. (laughter) And he was always, every time they had anything, he was master of ceremonies. And I don't know how many pictures I have of him here that shows where he was, then it says, Coachella Valley Board of Realtors. At that time, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, none of those places had a board of realtors at all. And if they wanted to belong to the board, they went down to Indio and it was called Coachella Valley Board of Realtors. That was where almost everybody, except those in Palm

Springs. And Ted was elected president of that while he was member there. But then he got together with different builders in the area of Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert, and they organized their own board. And Ted was the first elected president of that. He couldn't get out of work. You never were without work, were you? (laughter) And that was just a little thing there that, how he done, then here is this Coachella Valley Advisor Planning Committee. Again they were doing things. They threw their weight behind a proposed county bond issue for, to get things done, you know, in the . . .

TS: Courthouse.

JS: All these things. The bond issue hopefully designed to meet needs throughout 1965 has a manifold purpose of alleviating overcrowding of long obsolete quarters and decentralizing the county government to promote efficiency in widely separated areas. And that's what they got done then. And then here, Palm Desert launches a drive to improve 111. 111 in those days, you know,

TS: Just a two-lane highway.

JS: Went right through Palm Desert and people could see that, especially in the winter when the traffic, when people started coming in the wintertime, so here it says the

Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce today called on similar organizations to join in a drive for improvement of Highway 111.

PY: This is 1956.

JS: Yes.

PY: I'd understood they wanted to put a chain link fence up, Riverside County did.

JS: Yes. And Palm Springs, they always thought they were the only place that amounted to anything in the desert in those days. They didn't think any of these other areas were ever going to amount to anything. And so whenever they, you know, wanted to do, they felt that was what should be done. And Ted in his capacity and the head of these different things, he started to fight back, you know, and so they, that's what they did. They, he got a group together in the lower end of the desert, they used to call it, and they got the Highway Department and whoever would be the ones to talk to to put a, I didn't know what they . . .

TS: Four-lane highway.

JS: A four-lane highway in there. And they were, Palm Springs originally wanted the Highway 111 to go way over . . .

TS: From L. A.

JS: Way over there and bypass what they called the smaller communities which are larger than Palm Springs now. But they couldn't see any future to them. To Cathedral City and Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert, and they wanted and they thought they'd get it over there and I don't know why.

TS: The area now brings all the traffic from the south and eastern states through Palm Desert into Indio.

JS: Then . . . well, this is a picture of Ted Smith when he was president of Rotary before that in 1956, and he was installing Dr. Dan Pettoc they were good friends of ours. Here's Jerry Malone. He's got the station along there. You know him.

PY: Were you part of the Chamber of Commerce?

JS: Well, we were still living in Rancho Mirage at that time, even when he organized the Palm Desert Realty Board. But we didn't move to Palm Desert until 1960, and then we built a home up in the highlands. This we were a part of that subdivision.

PY: Now Hal and Ella Lou were over by Shadow Mountain Club, weren't they?

JS: Their first home was over there. They later built a home

up in the Palm Desert Highlands also.

PY: Oh. So you two constituted two of the two votes for the sewer system.

JS: That was it. And here's, and then later he became one of the vice presidents of the CREA, that's California Real Estate Association for the whole state. He became vice president of that, but they called it, they don't call it that anymore. They call it something else. Here's Mr. and Mrs. Ted Smith. They never did get my picture in any of these things. It says, Mr.and Mrs. Ted Smith returned last week from San Francisco, where Mr. Smith was inaugurated as regional vice president of the Riverside County District of the Real Estate, California Real Estate Association. That was when it was. And that was in 1957. Smith renamed president of Coachella Valley Advisory. They never could get rid of him, could they? Or he couldn't get rid of them. That was a picture taken when, I guess, he was installed. Then they had this Highway 111 Association, and then he was in that. He was one of the prime movers in that.

TS: That's when they were going to move the highway over on Interstate 10.

JS: Yes.

TS: And do away with 111.

PY: Why?

TS: Well, because they figured it was shorter. It was about one mile shorter than Los Angeles from Arizona. So when they'd come up the Coachella Valley, they'd come up Interstate 10.

JS: You wouldn't have to go through all those little towns and everything. They felt like that was beneath them, I guess, in those days.

PY: They put in I-10, where 99 used to be, is that what happened?

TS: Well, later on.

JS: Yes, that was later. Then here was one of the Ted Smith was president in the Shadow Mountain Club again.

PY: How did you feel about that moving all the traffic off of 111?

TS: Well.

JS: It would ruin Palm Desert, wouldn't it?

TS: It would ruin Palm Desert and the small towns there. There was only a two-lane highway and they were going to improve the highway. Made a lot of accidents and everything.

JS: Well, they got it improved. And that's when things started to grow, after that highway was improved into a

four-lane highway.

PY: When was that?

JS: Well, it must have been right after they were working on it. And this was in . . .

PY: Fifty-seven?

JS: February 1957, so it must have been right after that. And these are different things, somebody did.

PY: Did that come in? I didn't remember that.

~~JS:~~

PY: Gala Villa?

JS: They were just building it.

PY: But . . .

JS: Here's Ted and the town.

PY: Do you know where the Gala Villa is? I don't even know of it.

JS: Yes. It's on the corner, it's on the corner of Portola and whatever towards the other way. It's right there by the Shadow Mountain Club.

PY: Oh.

JS: It says here, ground was broken here yesterday for a luxurious two hundred and fifty thousand apartment hotel level rebuilt at the Shadow Mountain Club. So it's right there on Portola, the entrance of the Shadow Mountain

Club, right on the other side. And that's when Ted had something to do with Coachella Valley Savings and Loan. They had a branch in Palm Desert at one time.

PY: And they moved it up to Ranch Mirage?

JS: Yes. And he was one of the officers there. This tells about it. Ted Smith of Rancho Mirage, friend of the politically potent Coachella Valley Advisory Planning Committee, will head the campaign in Coachella Valley for the county building bonds. That's when they started to build that . . .

TS: We had no county buildings then. We had to go to Riverside for everything. Building permits and marriage licenses and everything.

JS: There's, this was something here, where you're, they're groundbreadking for something here. Was that when the Shadow Mountain Golf Club was built? Was it 1957? Was it that long ago?

PY: Why did they decide to put the county buildings in Indio instead of, say, Palm Springs or something?

TS: Well, they had a little more lot up there than, had bigger residential area.

JS: Also it was probably more central in the county. You know when you look at the map of the county . . .

TS: The county went clear down to Salt and Sea. Indio was the central part.

JS: And then it goes clear down to Blythe. It was a little more central. I think maybe that had to do with it. These are things that we attended. We keep talking about we're going to label them. And this is through 1957, and this was the office where they moved, where Hal still has his office, and you're in that office. Now this was that original building and they moved from that other one that I showed you. That little one out on the highway. And then they bought this building on the corner here and this was the, in those days they called the outside of the highway Palm Village. And later they, you know, they dropped that.

PY: I'm surprised that as late as 1958, it was still called Palm Village.

JS: This is, I don't have a date there, do I? This was October, 1957.

PY: And this is 1958.

JS: March, 1958.

PY: So somewhere, maybe that's the end of 1957, but still, I didn't realize that there was a distinction between the two sections as late as 1958.

JS: You see there's that sign they had up there. When they bought this building, it had been owned by Palm Desert Land Company. And they had a little real estate office in there and it was, you know, they operated all around Palm Village, the north side of the highway.

PY: Was that the one that Bob Ellsworth had been involved with?

TS: I think so. Originally they . . .

PY: I don't . . .

JS: I don't really know. There was nobody in there when they bought it except Palm Desert Land, and it was built on to. You can see this space here. That's where the insurance company is now. And over here, what is it, the electric company. See, that was built on to, and this was the original building. And that is now where you had your office and the Chamber has its office in that original building. But the new part was built onto there. It said here they are operating under the name of Desert Property Consultants and have completely redecorated it and remodeled the building. This was the picture of the old building though. How would you like a cool drink?

PY: If you're going to have one, fine. Otherwise, it doesn't . . .

JS: You want to turn that off for a minute?

PY: Once, you know, I saw a photograph of this two-story. Had you intentions of building a second story on there and never got to it?

TS: One time we thought about it, but we didn't do it.

JS: The original sketch, I think, did . . .

PY: Yes.

JS: Did have, I remember that now. I had foogotten.

PY: Okay. I think they were installing new officers.

JS: Yes. This must be about a party or something. Ted Smith of Rancho Mirage, permanent desert realtor, yesterday was named as the Coachella Valley Zone Chairman in the Knowland for Governor organization, Riverside County. And this was when he was elected president the second or third time, I don't know when, of Shadow Mountain Club. And this picture of Ted I had enlarged and an artist from Palm Desert, he did it. He made a portrait of it in the bedroom. Did you see that one in the bedroom?

PY: No.

JS: It's a wonderful portrait. There's where he, oh here it is. This came out in the Los Angeles Times. K. Ted Smith (laughter) is again president of the Shadow Mountain

Club. This was the Shadow Ball when we all got together and this was a party with

TS: A party that had been given,

JS: Bill Lightner and Mrs. Lightner.

PY: We're getting towards the end of the tape. Just try to give you a warning.

JS: And Ted and I think that's one of me.

And Hal and then Ella Lou. We all look different, don't we? (laughter)

PY: Not that different.

JS: And there was a little show, a Gay Nineties. Was this at the club or, I guess it was. I thought maybe it was the little theatre. And there's . . .

TS: I think it was the little theatre and they brought it up to the club.

JS: Could be. There's Ted doing something or other in the Gay Ninety skit. (laughter) And there's Hoffy. And he, of course, and his wife Grace had a home in Palm Desert. I guess you know that.

PY: I don't know a whole lot about it. Go ahead.

JS: Well, he and his wife had a lovely home there. And he always came up, he was always interested in children and he would do things for charity that had to do with children

mostly. And I want to show you a picture. When Ted was president of the Shadow Mountain Club, he invited him to come up to the Shadow Mountain Club and he came up there and they fenced off a little place so he could have his horse there. And kids came from all over. They even advertised it in the paper that he was going to be there. And, of course, this just shows a few, but there were just, oh, dozens and dozens of them that came up there. And you can see part of the Shadow Mountain Club there in the background. It was part of the pool. That was before those apartments were built there, and it was just beautiful then. So much prettier then. And a wide open space around it, you know. And he came up with, and he gave candy and favors and things for all the kids that came. And brought his horse. And this picture of Ted I thought was cute.

PY: Wonderful. You both look so happy in that picture.

JS: Yes. And this was another one of his, when he came up to the Gay Ninety week thing.

JS: And when, while Ted was president of the Shadow Mountain Club, they had so many of the wonderful luaus there. And they had the real Hawaiian groups come up from Hawaii.

And did numbers and, oh, it was just the most wonderful party in the world. And, of course, these were friends of ours and Hilde Crawford with the Palm Desert Sun, she always came up and she sat at our table there, although she's out here taking the picture now. And she described this wonderful party. They just could never have anything like that again, I don't think. They had Jeannette MacDonald was there and all kinds of some of these people that, let's see, we were at the Shadow Mountain Club, president Ted Smith's table. And said hello to Jeannette MacDonald and Gene Raymond and the Bill Boyds. That's Hoppy. (laughter) There was such a variety of food and the trip talks about the trip, oh, they must have had a famous chef there then because it was just wonderful. And they had music by the Island Serenaders. And all those things. It was just

And here's where Ted got behind the real estate people and organized the first real estate board in Palm Desert. It says, Ted Smith tells why the Real Estate Association was formed in Palm Desert. Ted Smith, president of the newly organized Palm Desert Real Estate Association, and so forth, it tells all about it. That was in May 30, 1958. Eventually, this was one of the pictures of that

when they had that luau. This was another picture showing Hoppy and different ones at another table.

PY: Well, you certainly got to pose with a lot of pretty women.

JS: Yes. Every time they had a party or something. There's another one. This magazine, it tells a lot about those early days. And I have saved a copy if you want it. You might refer to things in it.

PY: I'd like that.

JS: That you could use.

PY: Yes, if you have another copy. Who started the Sun Spots, do you know?

JS: What?

PY: Do you know who started the Sun Spots?

TS: I forget the name of the editor.

JS: Do you mean who started this Sun Spots?

PY: Yes. Who thought it up and . . .

JS: Oh, I suppose it was started way back in the old days when Cliff Henderson had it, I imagine, but it improved through through the years. It doesn't say who started it, does it? It says who the editor is. But it was there when we went there, wasn't it? And it's probably about the only thing in Palm Desert that you didn't start. (laughter)

Well, that just tells about the new realty group that, and then he was named realty . . .

PY: Why was the motto, Save on Sand During the Summer?

JS: I don't know what that was.

TS: What was that?

PY: Save on sand during summer for luck.

JS: Oh, that was for buying real estate. You could buy it cheap in the summertime.

PY: Oh.

JS: That had to do with real estate. In the old days in the summertime, you know, you were lucky if you could make some sales because hardly anybody came, but it's different now. In those days they always dropped the price of everything in the summertime. This says that Edith Eddy Ward wrote that. I put it in there because I thought it had a lot of, she's gone too, hasn't she?

PY: Yes. Do you think that's the Desert Sun?

JS: I didn't save the top of it, did I? Well, I don't know. But I wrote the date down, 5/16/58. But she never worked in Palm Springs. Roadrunner, this was a little realty paper. Do they still put it out under the name of the Roadrunner? They put out a little, you know, little leaflet like that.

PY: The Palm Desert Realty Board.

JS: Yes, that came out of the Sun and it had to do with . . . Now here's where the new post office. Now that is not where it is now. That's the other new, you know . . .

PY: Across the street from where it is now?

JS: This is across the street from, yes, from the new one now on that side street. And this is he was master of ceremonies. And that was a real nice deal.

PY: That's 1958.

JS: That was opened in, this is October 1958. That's just another picture of it. This is October 23, but it tells about it.

PY: Oh, the Date Palm was out at Indio. I never heard of that paper.

JS: Indio Date Palm? I think they called it something else then.

PY: Is that the Daily News now?

TS: Yes, the News, yes, the Daily News sold them out. This was a part of the Daily News, the Date Palm. And they changed the name of it.

JS: Coachella Valley Planner News Paper Now this is when Ted started organizing the Shadow Mountain Golf Club in connection with the Shadow Mountain Club. There they are breaking ground. Shadow Mountain Golf Club started in

January 16, 1959.

PY: It was seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars on the golf course.

JS: It is now could be 1959, well, that's over twenty years ago. That shows, doesn't it? That's another part of the publicity on the . . . and this tells about it in the Times in the sports section. Just this week President Ted Smith stated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Shadow Mountain Golf Club at Palm Desert. That's the same thing. This is a party at the Shadow Mountain Club just before we went to Europe. That's, I think I told you I had enlarged this artist's film, made a portrait that we have in there. I'll let you see it in a minute. This is a proposed senior junior college. They don't publish that anymore. They just call it COD, don't they? At Community College. That's, but this was, now that's the RESORTED see, they don't have that anymore. That's the Palm Desert paper. See, they don't call it that anymore.

PY: This is 1969.

JS: Yes. RE: College of Desert This is where they finally had it. But they've had a long history of the people wanted to gather in different spots. They want

it down by Indio, and of course Palm Springs wanted it. Everybody wanted it. We were in Europe. And the minute we got back, we had a letter from Hal while we were over there, and Hal told about all these factions. And he said, oh, you've got to get back here. (laughter) He said all these people want this, they want the college somewhere else. They want it way down toward Indio or . . . .

TS: Palm Springs wanted it pretty badly.

JS: Palm Springs. So the minute we got back Ted got a group rogether and really told them how serious this was and that they'd all better get behind this location if they wanted to keep it here. Nearly everybody, none of us in the summertime, everybody was, you know, not doing anything about it.

TS: We had to go clear to Sacramento on that one.

JS: They had quite a thing.

PY: Why did you have to go to Sacramento?

TS: Because that's where the . . .

JS: We had to see some people up there about something.

TS: Part of the money came from the state at that time.

JS: If Ted hadn't, he was really responsible for getting it in there. And he has the letter, oh, that's something

else. But if he hadn't gotten behind all those people that had influence, it wouldn't have gone in there. It would have been somewhere else.

PY: I understood their first choice was the lot, the site in Indian Wells, up in the cove there.

JS: Yes. Down there. But it wasn't Indian Wells then.

PY: Right.

JS: It was Indio.

PY: Oh, that was considered Indio?

TS: It was still in Indio, yes.

JS: That was all that was the Involvement of Indio. It probably was county really. I don't know. I don't really know, but we all called it Indio.

PY: Do you know why that didn't occur?

JS: Because of Ted.

PY: Oh, because you wanted it in Palm Desert.

JS: Because he got the people to get behind it. And this was, well, this is another publicity, and this, I guess, Hal probably has a picture of that because that was taken when they got the new building finished. See, they bought it. I showed you that picture, they bought it. Then they built onto it where the other offices are now. But this was, that was after it was first finished.

Then they called it financial square, but it never had that name up or anything. Yes. It looks like that now.

PY: Where were your offices, in here?

JS: No, that's where the, that's the real estate office and this is the county office and this is on the corner there's the post office. This was the park where worked in there somewhere. He'd go in this door. That's chamber. This is where you went, in there.

PY: Right.

JS: But they were in here.

PY: Yes.

JS: They exchanged that. There it is, financial square under construction. This was that little paper that came out. He served on a grand jury. This was taken in the, probably in the Shadow Mountain Club. Yes, they've got their Rotary badges on. But they were the ones that organized the Crocodile Club.

PY: Who was this?

JS: That's . . .

TS: Bob Waters?

JS: Yes, Bob Water. He and Ted organized that.

PY: What was the purpose of the Crocodile Club?

TS: Just a social organization. There was nothing to do

JS: It was just, they were just top executives around the desert, just to have a little get together.

PY: Oh, other than Palm Desert people.

JS: They were all Palm Desert people.

PY: Oh.

JS: You see, we are living in Palm Desert now. We moved there in 1960. And that's when they got together and organized it.

TS: It was a political organization too. I mean they'd get the county to do something in Palm Desert.

JS: You see, they weren't incorporated. Palm Desert wasn't incorporated and it was sort of, they were up to the, whenever they wanted anything done, they had to get the county to do things. And they'd kind of band together and they had a little more muscle that way.

PY: And yet it was a secret club, wasn't it?

JS: Well, it . . .

TS: No more secret than

JS: It was a private thing.

TS: Private club.

JS: Not really secret. I guess I said that, but that wasn't it. This is THE installation. He was president of the realty . . . I mean the, there's somebody else there.

I was thinking that was something else. Were you here.

PY: No.

JS: You weren't here then. Well, this is another social evening. We're not going to get very far, are we? I thought we'd be through by now and we'd take you to lunch.

PY: (laughter)

JS: You hadn't figured on staying this long, had you?

PY: Oh, I figured it would take awhile.

JS: Did you?

PY: Yes. I always leave lots of time. I've learned my lesson.

JS: Well, this was the, oh, I don't really know.

PY: It looks like one that didn't go through. El Paseo and ~~La Rea~~ Larrea, Portola and

JS: I thought it was the one in Record with Shadow Mountain Golf Club deal. Here's the weather in July.

PY: It wasn't too hot.

JS: Here's the Crocodile, tells about the Crocodile . . . Everybody in Palm Desert knows where the old post office building was. This building is now headquarters for the Crocodile Club. This was a group of man gathered to have

fun and forget the confusion of everything outside the door. That's when they were served just about every nation in the world as we're building either internally or against some other nation. Crocodiles retreat to their clubhouse for monthly dinners, meal once a week or so for lunch, play dominoes and cards, watch sports on television and drop by for an afternoon for business conferences, most exclusive. Members of the Crocodiles, do you want their names?

PY: Yes.

JS: Members of the Crocodile include Ted Smith; Robert Waters; Andrew Moseley; Kay Olsen, he's still down in Indio; Harold Smith, he was from Canada; Forrest Bower, he's gone; Frank Cannon, he's gone; Ted Crane, gone; Hal Capp; Carl Jensen; John Moon; and Robert Morey.

TS: Morey's gone too I think.

JS: No, that's Dr. Morey. He's not gone.

TS: Moon.

PY: Moon, he said.

JS: Oh, Moon. I don't know about that. Now that's the shopping center I thought that was. But this is Rancho Mirage and that's where Ted at one time had an awfully big office.

PY: Did you keep the office in Rancho Mirage when you opened one in Palm Desert?

TS: Yes.

PY: Is this, no, that's not where Jergensen's is now.

JS: Yes.

PY: Oh, it is.

JS: Yes, Jergensen's has almost that whole thing.

PY: Oh.

JS: It took that whole end and down here is something else now.

PY: Why did you decide to move to Palm Desert from Rancho Mirage?

TS: We found it had more commerce at that time.

JS: It was moving, and also he wanted, he and Hal decided to go together. And Hal lived in Palm Desert. And we moved there in 1960 because this is 1961. We moved there in 1960, so it was a natural move.

PY: What ever happened to the Shadow Mountain Day Club? Day School that was starting privately.

TS: I don't know.

JS: I don't think it ever went, did it?

PY: I don't know.

JS: I don't believe . . .

TS: It never got off the ground.

JS: I don't believe so. That was in 1958, see?

PY: What were you doing as a fine art patron at COD in 1958, nothing was there?

JS: I suppose we made a donation for there, you know. And this was the start of the workshop. Well, that was number five. That's in that book there.

PY: What were the workshops for?

TS: To increase the knowledge of the real estate people. The real estate people weren't too smart at that time, so we wanted to improve their image. I think that's the easiest way to put it. Improve the image.

JS: And they brought people, well known people, from Los Angeles and San Francisco and San Diego to talk to the group and really inspire them. And they were very interesting. And they were very well attended and extremely successful. And it went on for years until Ted decided he didn't want to head it anymore. Then somebody else headed it one year, and then it kind of folded. They lost interest then.

TS: Roy St Leon I think.

JS: What?

TS: Roy St Leon.

JS: No. He might have had it one year, but that's not the one I'm thinking of. Oh, then here's the beginning of the library. Now I would say that Hal had . . .

TS: He was the prime mover.

JS: He was the prime mover in that, and he got good people together in it. And there were always some people that were against any kind of progress. And at that time there were several that were against it. They . . . and so all these people that got together. There's Richard and John ~~Alcove~~ Olcott, Carl Jensen, Carl Henderson, Capp welcomed Bob Waters again, Harry Cannon, John Moon, Smith, and Mrs. Tom Brown and Cliff Henderson. They all got together and signed for a loan. They committed themselves to a loan for that building. And before they ever had to pay anything, it paid for itself. It was just wonderful the way it went forward. And this should have been in another . . .

PY: Oh, that's that recent article?

JS: No, this isn't the recent one. This was one that came out in the Palm Desert paper at one time. And I don't know why Mary Finges has it in her envelope there. I think she had it. She borrowed it from me. That was it, and mailed it back, that's it. And it should go about

in this file as far as the date's concerned, May 14, 1964. Here's the groundbreaking ceremony for the library.

PY: Well, you had a radio show.

JS: They had a weather, it was a weather broadcast.

PY: Oh.

JS: And they had their ad in it following the weather broadcast. Wasn't it weather? It wasn't anything else, was it? They called it news. Yes. Oh, it was news and weather, yes. Mostly news, I guess.

PY: And that was on KVES.

JS: KVES, yes.

PY: Over in Palm Springs.

JS: Yes, in Palm Springs, yes. And this was the, they put that in our paper. And this was some more Rotary Club parties and things. And that has to do with . . .

TS: Let me see that.

JS: Well, I want to put them back in here when I get the right date. That's when he was

This was when he much to do with Palm Springs. It's getting warm in here. I think I'll have to put the air conditioner on.

PY: Boy, you really were master of ceremonies of everything around.

TS: Well, at that time there wasn't anybody to do anything and there was so much to do, so someone had to do it.

PY: Were there a lot of civic minded people or just a very few?

TS: No, there wasn't anything here at that time while this was going on.

PY: So you and Hal really had to do a lot of it.

TS: Yes.

PY: Was that because so many people were seasonal residents or because of the nature of the community?

TS: Well, Palm Springs was fighting for everything, and they had to combat Palm Springs at that time. And they finally came out and joined us.

JS: This is a party that, another party. This was Part it's the same one

These are some aerial photos that were taken of Palm Desert. could they have done Palm Desert?

PY: Really hot if it's Palm Desert.

JS: Not much in there, is there? It is Palm Desert. This is. That was not, but this is. But that shows how scattered things were in those, that was in 1962.

PY: What was this air commission you were . . .

TS: Riverside County . . .

PY: Airport.

TS: Airport commission.

PY: What was their concern?

TS: To get the airports established. In fact, we got Indio established. They upgraded Palm Springs so that they, a passle of planes would come in.

JS: Big ones. The jets.

PY: Wasn't there an idea of putting in a jet airport in Rancho Mirage somewhere?

TS: That was in Indio, wasn't it?

JS: They had a little airport there once.

PY: Now this was something further out towards the I-10, I think.

TS: No, they had an airport right there that I forget what the guy's name was.

PY: Hank ~~Dougherty~~ Gogerty.

TS: Hank ~~Dougherty~~ Gogerty, and they wanted to make that larger and they extended that.

JS: I don't think they could have at that place. That wasn't THE in consider . . . they weren't considering that in this at this time, I don't think. Probably . . .

TS: Hank had another piece of property the other side of the flood control he was going to give them.

PY: Oh.

JS: Thermal airport. Well, they went in the thermal airport, they talked about that down there and a lot of things. And there's the dedication of the library.

PY: And Ted Smith was again the master of ceremonies.

JS: Always he was. The funniest thing happened, we heard that . . . it was just one thing after another in those days because it was growing so fast. And we heard that Cliff Henderson said, can't we just have one dedication that Ted Smith is not the master of ceremonies? (laughter)

PY: It was that marvelous voice, you know, irresistible. (laughter) There he is again at another dedication.

JS: Yes. Oh, it was just one thing after another. This is a picture and it shows how many people were there.

PY: Was it about six hundred and fifty or something? at the dedication.

JS: At that time Hal should have been the one. No, that's the post office. No, that's the library, that's the library, that's right. He should have been the one, but at that time Hal was very timid about those things. You wouldn't believe it, you know, in later life. But at that time, he wouldn't do anything. He wouldn't go forward on anything, you know, except in the background.

He did a lot of work in the background, but he did a lot of work for the library. And, but he wouldn't get up there on the platform. Now this is another thing that Ted started, and that was where, well, I don't know what you'd call it, but he sponsored, he asked the Rotary Club to sponsor, it was his idea for the Rotary Club to sponsor committees over at the college for these different things. And he got these different ones to sponsor all these things and that was Ted's idea there. And trophy.

PY: Oh, I went to this. Yes. Oh, you got them to begin, you were president the year they began awarding . . .

TS: Yes.

JS: He did it when he was president of the Rotary Club, and that was one of their projects.

TS: Scholarship awards.

JS: They, well, I don't know if they got, well, they had scholarship awards, these were these trophies.

TS: Outstanding service to the college.

JS: Yes. And so he got all these people. This was, see, that was the belated word of gratitude to all the Rotarians who put out cold cash to provide incentive awards. And that was in 1963. And that was Dr. McCall

but you didn't know him either.

PY: Yes, I met him. I interviewed him.

JS: Did you?

PY: Yes.

JS: That was Mission Viejo?

PY: Yes.

JS: And how's Mrs. McCone?

PY: She's up and down. She was better that day I saw them.

JS: Well, when they left there, went to the desert and went down to Mission Viejo, I understood she was very ill.

PY: I don't think she's well. She was up and down.

JS: But we get a card from them every Christmas, so I wondered, you know, how she was doing. That's a picture that was taken at a party, I guess.

PY: Let's see these if nothing else.

JS: I'm trying to figure out what this

oh, that's just a social thing. Then this was one that . . . this is the one. I gave her the original and kept the copy. I don't suppose there's anything in here that you need.

PY: I don't know. I wrote it down so I could go look it up.

JS: You can keep that and I'll keep the original.

PY: Okay. I recognize this copy machine. It looks like the

copy machine at the office. What was the

TS: Samuel. I always hated it when I was a kid even.

JS: (laughter) Yes, he doesn't like to use that name. That's another picture taken on our anniversary at the Edgewater Country Club. He got another award. And . . .

PY: What year was that?

JS: I don't know whether there's anything in here or not on . . . or if was just different.

PY: Oh, this was the one on the library. I recognize it. isn't it? I don't know. It's just that it's Marge Brown.

JS: Is she still around?

PY: Yes.

JS: Is she? These were the things that I thought were interesting. I thought that was so beautiful before they ruined it. You know, built all those apartments around and everything. We used to have the most wonderful time there even in the summertime.

PY: At the Shadow Mountain Club.

JS: Yes. They had theatre group and people would come there and entertain outside, outdoors, and we'd all have chairs around outside, and it was cool in there because of the grass and trees and everything. When it was hot at home. And also they had lilies.

PY: So it was opened at the part of the summer usually.

JS: There's Ted Smith, veteran Palm Desert realtor, civic leader, who with Hal Capp operate the Republican Party Hal Capp, former Chamber of Commerce president, president of the Library Association. And then with the letter from Eisenhower. This was another thing where he was master of ceremonies.

and they had the people from Mexico come up. It was a nice party.

PY: Was that for Rotary or something?

TS: Yes.

JS: Yes, they invited Rotarians from down below the border. And they brought a Mexican band up and, oh, it was a real nice party. And there's Al Loom and there's next and there's Dick Kite and there's Dick Kite's wife. And then there were a lot of Mexicans there. They were real nice people. There's some of then there. That's the Mexicans there. And there's Dr. Morey's wife.

PY: It doesn't look like her.

JS: Doesn't look like her now?

PY: No.

JS: I don't know what she looks like now. I saw her recently and I didn't think it looked like her either. There's

Al Lewis. There we are. That was in 1965. Somewhere, oh, that's something else. Sixty-four. That's only one book.

PY: One more book and that will be, that will get us up there.

JS: Are you caught up with disconnection? Could be.

PY: Yes.

JS: There, you can raise your head. All the singing Home on the Range, it said, it was at the Rotary party.

PY: I saw a picture of you singing.

TS: How does that begin?

PY: If ever I should leave you.

JS: What?

PY: If ever I should leave you.

JS: What do you mean?

PY: That's a song.

JS: No. I don't know.

TS: All Alone, was that part of All Alone?

JS: No, no.

PY: It wouldn't be in autumn.

JS: No. This is a circus day in Palm Springs, and they wanted people from all over to come. And so they rode in different carts to go to the parade

(papers rustling).

That's that college. They do that every year. Installation dinner. Well, that had to do with Banning, Beaumont. We had a summer home up at Banning. And he joined the clubs up there. Dean Miller, he's around. And I don't know what you did, he wrote you a thank you letter.

TS: Me?

JS: Dean Miller.

TS: Someone owns a church up there.

JS: No, that's his last evening, devotion and installation party. He was president of Rotary one year. Do you remember?

TS: Yes.

JS: I'd forgotten he did that. I did so enjoy my year as president of Rotary Club. Looking back over the year, I feel it was a good Rotary, so forth. I forget what he wrote you for.

PY: So you were involved in Republican affairs locally in the valley.

JS: Yes. You wrote him about, well, this has to do with when you were up at Banning. You wrote a letter for somebody up there. Airport. That's when he because there's not too much publicized Thursday

Shadow Mountain Club for Robert T. Anderson. He was the county administrator of Riverside County. And Ted had a big get together party for him. There's a picture of them giving him an award.

TS: He was quite a good citizen.

JS: He was very, very popular with everybody around.

PY: When was this?

JS: Singing Christmas carols at the Palm Desert Realty Christmas Breakfast. (laughter)

Eisenhower medical center no This was when he worked to get the Eisenhower Medical Center where it is now. Palm Springs was fighting it.

PY: Why would Palm Springs fight that.

TS: They wanted it in Palm Springs.

PY: There any other desert hospital.

JS: They wanted another hospital. Well, they wanted it

TS: They wanted the prestige of it.

JS: They wanted the money there. They didn't want money to go into this. And he had to go into Riverside again at hearings and she was there at one of those hearings and she saw him. And she came and threw her arms around him and cried.

PY: Delores Hope.

JS: Yes. But then she wrote this letter.

PY: So there was some frustration on her part in terms of . . .

JS: Yes.

TS: They wanted it in Palm Desert.

PY: Palm Desert or . . .

TS: Palm Desert.

PY: Not Rancho Mirage.

JS: Well, of course, it's sort of Rancho Mirage now because the way they put Rancho Mirage on one side and Palm Desert. It didn't come in Palm Desert, but at least it's on the edge of it. And here she wrote, this was after she saw them. Thank you so much for all the time you have given on behalf of the Eisenhower Medical Center over the past several weeks. I was pleased to see you and Mr. Capp at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday. It is good to know that the Eisenhower Medical Center can count on you as one of its good friends. And she wrote him a second letter. That was when she saw him in there at the meeting and came and threw her arms around him.

PY: Were you upset at the way the county, after incorporation, how the county divided up the area of fear of influence?

TS: I don't remember that. I remember being on that fear of influence committee.

JS: Well, I don't remember much about it now either.

PY: But did you want to incorporate Palm Desert beyond Rio Del Sol?

JS: Well, this all was just about the, and this was when they gave that Eisenhower thing. And there's one thing I'd sure like to correct.

PY: What's that?

JS: Well, we received all these things about how it isn't really a very appropriate time to mention it.

PY: There's a lot in those articles that . . .

JS: But Evelyn Young, you know, gave Hal credit for that military award to the president, and that wasn't true. Ted was in the hospital. Ted was the one that thought of giving it to Bob Hope and the president and had the plaques made. And he was supposed to be the master of ceremonies to present them. And Ted had an attack and was in the hospital and he couldn't do it. And so he asked Hal to do it. And so that's why everybody thought it was his idea because he did. But it wasn't. And she said there that he had . . .

PY: Wasn't any errors in all those articles.

JS: Yes. But Ted got it, and let me show it to you.

PY: Oh, okay.

JS: You want to turn that off a minute?

PY: Yes.

JS: It brought tears to my eyes, you know. And then Ted

was given an award, too, at this breakfast. And I had to accept it for him, of course, because I was there. And Hal announced that, at the beginning, at the meeting, that Ted was the one that had thought of this award for the president and Bob Hope. But he was in the hospital and he was supposed to have been there to present it. But Hal was doing it in his place. And they sang "Home on the Range" for him. I thought that was real cute.

TS: WE don't want to Boar the young lady

JS: Well, that was just, we just came to that part of it. But now I don't know how many more things. Maybe some of the other people have brought you up to date with . . . that was when Ted was on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the college.

PY: What did he actually do?

TS: Well, we saw what was going on in Palm Springs so we started a citizens advisory committee. So we were just a prestige committee to get support for the College of Palm Desert, and we were coming down to Salt and Sea when . . .

JS: Well, they've already established it there.

PY: This is 1968.

JS: I don't know what you really did over there.

TS: Well, . . .

JS: You don't remember either, do you much? This says concerned citizens. Trustees have authorized me to extend an invitation to you to serve again 1968-69. I don't remember what you did. I don't remember you going to very many meetings, actually. Oh, I think that was up in Banning. This was when they started the incorporation.

PY: So you were involved in incorporation?

JS: In the early days, yes. We had groups together to meet. But he kind of stayed in the background. But he didn't chair any of the groups. He just got them together.

PY: Why did you not participate?

TS: Well, they were having too much of Ted Smith.

JS: He learned so much in the early days. And by that time there were just lots of new people in there that could be doing things, but his name was on here. They had a meeting. That's Ted back there. He started taking a back seat some way or other. Thank you so much for your wonderful part in this morning's events. It had to do with this breakfast, I imagine.

PY: Oh, for incorporation.

JS: Yes.

PY: Was Hal involved in the incorporation?

TS: Yes.

JS: He was involved, too, but I don't think . . . he kind of took a back seat, too, didn't he.

TS: For awhile, then he moved forward.

JS: Stayed in, later on, I guess. He was very timid about things in the early days. He didn't, then Ted started taking a back seat. Well, then he moved forward and he started doing things. That was a musical festival. Truckers of the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce Wednesday were asked to adopt a resolution to sponsor week-long Palm Desert Music Festival. The Festival of Music program is a creation of Ted Smith, local realtor and former president of the Palm Desert Board of Realtors. That was in Palm Desert Post. Now I don't know what they ever did about that, but they wanted, you know, he thought they ought to have something going. Oh, they did have a concert over at the college. They have one of the records. Here's one of the records of their music that evening.

PY: That was before the Desert Symphony?

TS: The Desert Symphony was the result of it.

JS: It said that Desert Symphony, they had at least to go

over there and listen to them because they took part in it. Wasn't that it? Desert Symphony directed by Thomas Mancini is rehearsed, tuned and ready for the Palm Desert College of Desert. They took the college in as part of the Palm Desert College of Desert performance Friday evening. And it was a part of that. No, they had the Desert Symphony in those days because it had just started probably. That's probably why you wanted them to have that musical event. It says something about the Chamber of Commerce. Desert Symphony Orchestra, see? First annual Palm Desert Music Festival. See?

PY: Yes.

JS: And Kite sang.

PY: This is March, 1969.

JS: Yes.

PY: Who was Tom Mancini?

JS: He was the musical director of the college. He was wonderful. And his wife played the piano, and she was really good, tops.

PY: So these were all local people that were involved in Desert Symphony?

JS: Yes. Well, there's the people at the cafe. See there?

PY: Yes.

JS: She played violin. She was second violinist, I think. And these people came from all over, though. I mean, not necessarily Palm Desert. They came from wherever they could get them. And that was their first program. Palm Desert Board of Realtors this week presented a scroll to Reverend Dean Miller, pastor of Palm Desert Community Church in appreciation for the matter of his participation in the memorial funeral services of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Left to right are Ted Smith, who with his wife, offered the words on the scroll. And it's a beautiful scroll. Here it is. Here's a copy of it. And then he wrote the thank you for it.

PY: Are these the records with Dick Kitt singing? These are just songs?

JS: No. Not the Palm Desert Festival. I have one of his singing. But I have one of these, too, and it is the orchestra.

PY: I see.

JS: It's the orchestra. Collage of The Desert Symphony performance. That's what it is. But I have one of him singing and it's beautiful.

PY: He looks almost like Hal.

JS: You know, in the early days, and it's the funniest thing,

you know when they started wearing long hair and all that business? They looked so much alike because they cut their hair the same way and everything. And Hal played the piano in the church. And Dick Kite sang.

PY: Was this over at the Christian Science Church?

JS: Yes. And somebody pulled up to Hal afterwards and he said, oh, he said, I loved your solo. But he said, that fellow playing the organ played too loud for you. (laughter) But Hal laughed about it. Took one hundred dollars from the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce's First Annual Music Concert given by the Desert Symphony. See, that's the way it was. There's Tom Mancini. He was really wonderful. He left. He left the college. There's another letter from McCall. He must have done all right over there at the Citizens General Advisory Committee, but I don't remember what you did or anything about it. air pollution I remember that.

PY: So they were doing away with it already in 1969.

JS: Yes.

PY: Were they getting to be a real problem?

JS: Well, yes, they burned in weekends. When the visitors came and it left the sky, there was just a pile of smoke around. This had to do with the Community Parks Foundation.

Here the Committee of Parks in Palm Desert established some kind of a foundation to buy that building over there. And I don't know what they ever did about it. They bought the building, I think, but what ever happened, I don't know.

PY: Were you involved with the parks, too? You were involved with everything.

JS: There wasn't anything. Here's an anti-pollution group. There he is right in the middle. We were involved with him too.

PY: Dick Harrington.

JS: Picture of, see, he was our state assemblyman from our district. And he, we helped him get some votes. And then he was involved with this Lake Cahuilla down there. Ted Smith heads air pollution group.

PY: That was over in

JS: What?

PY: Was that over the

JS: Yes. Ted Smith, national assemblyman again. Thanks for helping. This was another group that Ted initiated. He said he thought that all the county people from Riverside would come down and see what's going on in the desert. And they had invited them down and gave

them the bus tour of the whole area. And, oh, they had a wonderful day. And here it says, and this was something else, but it was about that time. These are people that I met at the college that got awards.

PY: Oh, yes.

JS: They're still doing that. You went to that meeting.

PY: Yes. Hal took me to that last week.

JS: Yes, he called about that time and said he did.

PY: Oh, did he tell you?

JS: Yes.

PY: Oh.

JS: Of course, I didn't know who he was talking about because I hadn't met you.

PY: Right.

JS: That was something here. This had to do with Lake Paris, over out of town. Committee to elect the Mc. Candless to the fourth district supervisor. Is he still the supervisor now?

PY: Yes.

JS: He thanked Ted for his help. That was the Desert tour schedule.

PY: For the Riverside County?

JS: Yes. That was in 1970.

PY: Oh, yes.

JS: These are all the people that came. They were very enthusiastic about it.

PY: Was that just to show what was going on in the desert?

JS: Yes.

TS: They were trying to get another ~~county~~ established here.

JS: Well, this was, I don't know what you did, but it says here, fifteen Coachella Valley business and civil leaders joined last week to organize a tour and meeting designed to make western Riverside County officials more sensitive and responsive to the problems concerning the desires of citizens in the desert community representing all cities and the unincorporated communities in the valley.

TS: Well, we weren't getting a penny of the taxes at all.

JS: Well, that was it.

PY: Were you the prime mover in terms of the desert county then?

JS: Well, we went through that, yes, in the early days, yes.

PY: Then you were the prime mover.

TS: Yes. That's the reason we started because we weren't getting anything.

JS: He was president of that. But this was long after that.

But the desert was paying out high taxes and they weren't getting what they should get out of that tax money. And they met at the, so they got this meeting arranged by Palm Desert Realtor, Ted Smith, well, they went on to tell about all they did and the people that were there.

TS: I think you've bored him enough with me.

JS: Oh. Well, this is 1971-73. Are we up to that?

PY: Yes.

JS: He to study area problems. Riverside County. Well, that's the same thing. County surveyed the desert. This was taken on the trip.

PY: Oh, on that tour.

JS: Yes. See, they had a, this was what, Lake That was the group that came. These are some of the people, I guess, that came out for it or something.

PY: Was there a real need to be concerned about tourists coming to the area? This article says you're trying to ward tourists off the highway.

JS: That's what it says here. I don't know why.

TS: Because they were going up Interstate 10 instead of coming through Palm Desert.

JS: It says here, Smith suggested the number of possible

attractions for the visitors. A junior tennis tournament, a junior golf tournament, an outdoor amphitheatre, Hospital La Quinta, arts and crafts merchandise mart, different things. That's more or less the same thing. You know all about the tour, I'm sure. Just social things here. This is at the college.

PY: Oh, awards assembly.

JS: Yes. He was contributor to the Riverside County Department of Development Newsletter all the time and that was part of it.

PY: Why did you call yourselves the Kap Smith subdividists?

JS: Well, that's what they said, you know.

PY: Why?

JS: But then that's what they did, too.

PY: Well, what were they subdividing?

TS: Real estate up on Highway 74.

PY: The Desert Highlands?

TS: Desert Highlands, also I had one over on the other side of the college.

JS: Oh, well, yes. That was way back in the old days. That was Palm Vista. But then when you were with Hal you also subdivided Fairway Heights and another piece over, well, this was a second piece over by the college where they built that church. And then Desert Highlands.

PY: When you say you subdivided, were you developing them for subdividing?

TS: Yes, we bought the property, then put in the streets and sewer system in there.

JS: The whole thing.

PY: And people would buy the lots?

TS: Buy the lots.

JS: Yes, they bought all the acreage, you know. And then they'd have to and subdivide it into lots.

TS: And then the State Real Estate Commission would sell them.

PY: And was it fairly successful then?

JS: Yes, very much. Parties. Eisenhower thing that they got. We're on their list.

PY: I'll say.

JS: (laughter)

PY: They don't skimp on their publications either.

JS: This is what they . . .

PY: Their publicity, I should say.

JS: Board of Realtors again. We got our country club. That was always fun to go to. And they had their installation, Palm Desert Chamber installations. This was another thing that the Board of Realtors put on to raise some

money. People donated things for an auction. And he was auctioneer. The city National Bank opened its door and they opened up, you know, for the people that attended. ~~The~~ And ~~start~~ singing again.

PY: Boy, you were singing for a long time.

JS: Yes. This is where you tried to get the Coachella Valley Planning Committee to install some kind of a public transit system to go through the . . . there's nothing. Did they ever install one?

TS: No, they . . .

JS: Bus system. It says, Ted Smith, Palm Desert member of the newly organized Riverside County Transportation Committee. Oh, you were on that for a long time trying to get a bus system in the desert.

PY: They had something, some line.

JS: Well, Richard Nixon sent you a telegram. I don't remember what that's about. And then when you gave the salute. I don't know what, I guess he got some awards. I've got boxes and boxes and boxes of them.

PY: Of awards?

JS: Plaques, all those things. Most of that's personal, you know.

PY: Yes.

JS: And maybe the rest of it is, too, because, you know, after Palm Desert started growing up, why there were a lot of others to take, you know, that would take part. And a lot of the things had been organized already. What did she call herself?

PY: Nancy.

JS: Oh. The N was that way and

PY: Were you doing things for Governor Reagan?

JS: Went to the dinner.

PY: I see.

JS: For them.

PY: I wonder what this was H&S Realty?

JS: I think that's when Ted went over there and he became president of H&S Realty.

PY: Oh.

JS: And they built that new building. You see, after they built that new building. Was the picture in the other book?

PY: H&S Realty or . . .

JS: No.

PY: Hal Capp and Ted Smith.

JS: Not that. No, that's long ago.

PY: Long ago.

JS: This was when Ted went over to president. I thought

there was a big picture of it here. It says

PY: Well, I know where H&S Realty is.

JS: Well, there was this big picture.

PY: Near the post office. That whole section.

JS: Yes. Then he became president of that. They built . . .

PY: He and Hal were no longer partners at that point.

JS: No. Smith heads new owners of HMS Unit. And that was in April 1975. What is this? Must have been one of the banks or something.

~~TS:~~ cough

JS: Well, there probably isn't too much more in here. What was this? Then you were also part of this Seabag, Coachella Valley Association of Governors. What did you do there? Wasn't that where you went though that book that they were . . .

TS: Oh, their book on . . .

JS: As you know, the general assembly has recently approved a reorganization of the Seabag's social concepts and such specific goals and priorities for the immediate future. Therefore, the original five standing committees have been terminated. In their place, three committees under the concept of the reorganization it is our plan

to reduce the size of these committees and limit their membership. We are extremely grateful for your contributions and so forth. I don't remember what they did. The dedications ceremonies of this new county building in, that was in Riverside though. It wasn't down, it was in Riverside. Hal wrote that. Congratulations on your election as vice president of the chamber.

PY: That was in 1976.

JS: I remember that time.

PY: The chamber?

JS: Yes. Right after this. He's manager of the country club, too. This new member to Palm Desert/Riverside County Economic Development Council will receive special recognition tonight. Sixth annual salute to Riverside Chamber of Commerce. Ted Smith elected chairman of the Board for Desert YMCA. And this was when he received the board I showed you over there. That's it there.

PY: And that's the Eisenhower Humanitarian Award?

JS: Yes. Ted Smith, long time Palm Desert Rotarian receives the club tenth humanitarian, originally given to Dwight D. Eisenhower. And this was a builder of the year award that I took a picture of because it, you don't retain it.

It goes on and the different names appear on it. Then it goes back, so I took a picture. So he'd have it there. Here's this, you know, I told you they had to guarantee their money for the library.

PY: Yes.

JS: And it says here, as one of the original guaranteer of the Palm Desert Community Library Association in 1962 they were able to build the beautiful Palm Desert Library and you are asked to please attend the luncheon. And their money was no longer needed because it was built and paid for. Mostly from there on it has to do with, that's another award, mostly it has to do with the awards he received for different things he did, you know. Because you know all the hard work was done.

PY: Yes. Well, that's fascinating. You know, I remember Hal telling me one time that he put out the billboard. He had some painter in town do it, a Swedish fellow or something, and it was a joke. And I can't remember, you know.

TS: I think it was Hal Capp and Ted Smith, Realtors on it.

JS: I don't remember it either. I don't remember about that.

PY: It was a joke, whatever it was. I can't remember.

JS: It must have not stayed up very long.

PY: No, I don't think it did.

JS: But I don't remember it at all. I don't know.

PY: Well, I'd say you did quite a bit.

JS: Well, if you want to . . .

PY: Did you find that the community changed a lot over the years?

TS: During the last five years a lot of new people come in.

JS: Well, in the last ten or twenty years, we've been there almost thirty years. Well, even the first ten years we were there, we just knew everybody. When we'd go out to dinner, you'd just know everybody sitting all around you. And that last few years you'd go out and you'd see a few here and there that you knew. Of course, many people aren't even there that were there in the early days. They've moved away. They're gone.

PY: Yes.

JS: And new people take their place.

PY: Was there a real sense of community though early on?

TS: Well,

start a new one and everybody'd wanttojoin you. Anyway, it was something because Palm Springs was getting all the glory and this side of Riverside County.

PY: So people were willing to participate.

JS: I thought it was really a lot of fun. They used to have big dinners out in the park lot back of the welcome building. Is that still there, the Welcome building. It's still there, but I don't know whether they still call it the welcome building or not.

PY: I don't know either.

JS: But out back in the back there they would clear out all the cars and Young's . . .

PY: Cafeteria?

JS: Cafeteria. Are you related in any way to the Youngs there? They and others served the food, and we had wonderful food. It was put on, I guess, by the Chamber because I remember McNealy had a lot to do with it and he was connected with the Chamber at that time. Then there was a period when he wasn't connected with it, wasn't there? And then later on, then he became the manager again. And he's done a wonderful job. But we had so much fun in those days meeting out there in that park lot. And there was just hundreds of us out there. And they'd set up these wooden tables and the food was wonderful. And, oh, it was just lots of fun.

PY: Didn't the players have breakfasts too, the little

theatre group.

TS: Yes.

JS: Yes, we had little, I remember even Clay Stern had his barbecue table there. He was real good about everything like that. Everybody had a lot of fun around him.

TS: He was a good citizen.

JS: Yes. He's not there anymore. Mary's not there anymore.

PY: Did they pass away? Or just left the area?

JS: He passed on and I don't remember what happened to her. After he passed on first and then I don't remember what happened to her anymore after that. She might have gone. She had, she came from another area and she might have relatives somewhere and left. Many people we knew that.

PY: Why would they leave? Because the area changed?

JS: The area changed and lots of people didn't like the desert year around. And after they'd been there awhile, they found the summers kind of hard to take. And if they had to go somewhere during the summer, it became rather expensive to have another home. Ever since we were in the desert, we always from the early days, we always had another home somewhere or we traveled a lot.

in the summer. But generally we had another home somewhere else for the summer. And many people did, but they would rather be in one place where they just had one home. So they would leave and move on.